

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

SUBJECT Soviet OB: Saalfeld, Rudolstadt,
Ohrdruf, Kindl Area

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1 Saalfeld (J53), 25-26 April

- Minimum strength is estimated at 2,500 men. Troops of the tank regiment in Saalfeld wear black tabs with red piping. A majority of the enlisted men in the Prinz-Louis-Ferdinand Kaserne and the Schützen Kaserne wear Guards insignia, but this is less evident among their officers.
- The two barracks form a single compound without any intervening barriers. Source believes one building is occupied by a staff for the reason that twelve cables enter this building of which eight are connected with the town.
- The regiment appears to be equipped with T-34/85 tanks as seven were seen in one of the compound's ten large sheds and four more were observed leaving one of the two tank repair shops in the area.*
- A fuel dump west of the compound is partly submerged and covered with boards. Forty fuel drums were unloaded on 25 April.
- Vehicles in the barracks: [REDACTED] With the exception of a few German trucks, all vehicles are Soviet Ford types.

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2 Rudolstadt (J54), 27-28 April

- Total strength estimate: 5,000-6,000 men. Most officers and enlisted men wear black tabs with red piping, Guards insignia, and numerous war decorations. Artillery badges are predominant. There have not been many new arrivals during the past six months and source estimates that recruits do not amount to more than ten percent of total strength.
- Flak Kaserne - Estimated strength: 3,500-4,000 men, most of whom have red tabs with red piping and artillery insignia. The barracks are intact, but a high wall around them prevents observation. A former German soldier describes the installation as consisting of twenty buildings and thirty large sheds - the only barracks in Rudolstadt with vehicle sheds. [REDACTED] saw thirty trucks lined up in the compound. Parked along the street were vehicles in the [REDACTED]. Source thinks this compound is occupied by a howitzer regiment. 25X1C

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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- c. Reichsbauamt - Estimated strength in this building and five adjoining residences enclosed by a wooden fence: 600 men, most of whom wear red tabs. The former Reichsbauamt appears to be a divisional headquarters. A garage in the compound repairs passenger cars only. [REDACTED]

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- d. Prinz Eugen Kaserne - Estimated strength: 800 motorized riflemen, without vehicles. This barracks is partly destroyed and only four blocks are occupied. There is steady traffic between this and the Flak Kaserne.

- e. The artillery unit's ammunition dump lies south of Rudolstadt, approximately 600 meters from the Saale River, in an old farm building which, with its guard post, is surrounded by a wooden fence topped with barbed wire. [REDACTED]

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(Cf #1 on attached sketch map.)

- f. A second ammunition dump of three guarded bunkers lies approximately 150 meters behind the last house on the southern side of the road to Schaala. (Cf #2 attached sketch map.)

3. Ohrdruf (J15) 29-30 April; 2-3 May

- a. Troop movements at Ohrdruf ceased on or about 23 April. No maneuvers of any consequence have taken place. Local residents claim that troops in the area are the same ones who appeared last year. [REDACTED]

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- b. Although some 8,000 men could be billeted in the wooded area northwest of Crawinkel (J14) and on both sides of the Crawinkel-Ohrdruf road, there are approximately only 2,000 troops on hand. Most of these wear black tabs with red piping. Trucks loading lumber at the Crawinkel Bahnhof moved into the woods, which was a restricted area. A "no smoking" sign at one point suggests the presence of a fuel or ammunition dump. Thirty Soviet Fords [REDACTED] were parked before a barracks near this dump. Estimated strength in the barracks was 800-1,000 men.

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[REDACTED] about a tank repair shop in Ohrdruf where, it was previously reported, special gearshifts have been installed in JS tanks.**

4. Wipperoda (J05), 2-3 May

- a. Approximately 2,500 tank and artillery troops arrived on 2-3 May at a barracks camp in the woods east of Wipperoda and about ten kilometers south of Gotha (J06). Larger contingents were expected after 10 May. The camp can accommodate approximately 17,000 men. According to a camp workman, a Gotha firm was ordered to install twenty-three 200-liter cauldrons in the camp kitchens by 29 April.

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- b. Four 100 mm AT guns (44) were observed here. [REDACTED]

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5. Kindl Training Area

- a. The following train arrivals are reported by a railroad employee in Gross Behringen (H97):

- 4 May Loaded in Markranstätt (E10): 13 freight cars, 27 flat cars with vehicles [REDACTED] twelve 76.2 mm AT guns, four 107 mm guns, troops with black tabs with red piping.

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Loaded in Markranstädt: 8 freight cars, 24 flat cars with vehicles in E 1-26 series, twelve 76.2 mm AT guns (42), four smaller guns believed to be 57 mm AT, troops with black tabs with red piping.

Arrived via Naumburg (J89): 27 freight cars, 27 flat cars with vehicles [REDACTED] troops with red tabs. No weapons.

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Arrived via Weissenfels (J99): 18 freight cars, 26 flat cars with vehicles [REDACTED] No weapons.

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5 May Twelve freight cars, 21 flat cars with vehicles [REDACTED] 25X1C
25X1C [REDACTED] two SU-76, four light reconnaissance cars, four 57 mm AT guns, troops with black tabs with red piping.

b. Each freight car contained 35-40 men, believed to be members of a Guards rifle corps in Naumburg (J89) and Halle (D92).

c. Close observation could not be made of the following trains arriving during the night of 4-5 May and composed as follows:

Freight CarsFlat Cars

12

26

4

24

25

33

20

16

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* Comment: Usually a Soviet mechanized division has a medium and a heavy tank regiment, three mechanized regiments, one howitzer, and miscellaneous supporting units. From all appearances, the tank regiments seem to be stationed in Saalfeld, and the mechanized and howitzer regiments in Rudolstadt.

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25X1A Comment: Reference is a report from another source [REDACTED], dated 2-5 October 1948, stating that Kreis gearshifts made by Auto-Union, Chemnitz, were being installed in JS tanks at Ohrdruf.

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Enclosure:

1. sketch map of Soviet installations in the Rudolstadt area.

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